



neccog



Northeastern Connecticut
Transit District

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 23, 2018 Regular NECCOG Meeting

Rick Ives, NECCOG Chair opened the meeting at 8:30am. The pledge of allegiance was performed. Mr. Beausoleil moved to accept the previous meeting minutes and Mr. Alberts seconded - passed unanimously.

There was no public participation.

Director's Report:

- ☐ Program/Project Updates - Continue to develop the Town of Scotland's new Zoning Regulations. This project involves the complete re-write of these regulations and is an outgrowth of the recently completed town POCD that NECCOG facilitated for the town. NECCOG continues to provide landuse planning and enforcement assistance for the Town of Eastford related to its Planning Commission and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Assistance continues for the Town of Voluntown for the Planning and Zoning Commission, including an upcoming presentation regarding updating their plan of conservation and development. Initial work is being done on the now mandated Regional Housing Plan and members should be hearing more on this during the next few months. We expect to issue an RFP for the Pre-Hospital Emergency Response Study, Phase II next week.
- ☐ Transit District Operations - Ridership has been steady and comparable to previous winter time periods. The District has just replaced another engine in the fleet - the fourth this fiscal year. These engine replacements run about \$8,600 per engine. To date, we have not received word from CONNDOT if any of these costs will be covered by state or federal funds. The Governor's Budget unless amended by the General Assembly will result in a 15 percent reduction in funding from the state. Based on our analysis of this, should it occur, we will need to eliminate weekend service starting July 1 of this year. Transit is in need of drivers - please refer anyone who might be interested to us.
- ☐ 125 Putnam Pike Purchase - Still working on legislation to enable COGs to borrow funds
- ☐ Crumbling Foundations - Legislation now raised to provide additional assistance to homeowner's with crumbling concrete foundations Raised Bill 518 - AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOMEOWNERS WITH CRUMBLING CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS a hearing is scheduled for March 26.
- ☐ DEMHS Region 4 Activities - No activity of note
- ☐ Engineering Program - Conducting or will be conducting sidewalk and crosswalk inspections in Pomfret, assisting Ashford with Brownfield RFP review and assisting Chaplin with road work.
- ☐ Transportation - Work on the Long Range Transportation Plan will now gear up with the CEDS completed and we anticipate the plan being ready for review in 3 to 4 months. Funds (\$4.3 billion) still frozen at the state level - including Town Aid Road. Ashford is holding a corridor study meeting (Route 44 and 74 Corridor) on April 24. Both the DOT and the Connecticut Transportation Institute (Safety Circuit Rider Program) at UCONN will be partners in this effort. We are looking to invite other interested Towns within the area/region to participate - more information will be sent in the next few weeks.

- ☐ Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - Full draft which had five public meetings, 15-20 individual meetings, and was sent to 70 persons/organizations for review. When approved it goes to OPM and DECD for State approval and then on to EDA for Federal approval.
- ☐ Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth - Final report completed and hearings begin today. The report does make regional/shared services a major recommendation. However, their solution is to enable regions to impose a regional property or sales tax to cover the costs of regional services.
- ☐ Legislation - Bill were raised, in line with NECCOG suggestions to change the employment situation and appointing authority to CEOs to ZEOs, Building Officials and Fire Marshals. They also are considering legislation to open up grant funding opportunities now limited to towns to regional COGs.
- ☐ Opioid Training - Next week a special meeting is being held to discuss the opioid crisis in the region. The event is scheduled for the 28th - a program has been sent previously and one is included in your packet. If you cannot attend, the meeting is open to others from your town that may benefit from the discussion.
- ☐ Animal Services - Activity is light as it is during winter months. We now have a new arrangement with Tufts for the TNR program that will keep costs reasonable.
- ☐ GIS Program - upgrading software which may result is it being offline for short periods of time during the next few weeks. This will enable us to fully utilize Google Street View and other options. We have also completed tax maps for Woodstock.
- ☐ Meeting with Northwest hills COG - We held a meeting with representatives of the Northwest Hills COG to discuss issues of mutual concern. Much of the discussion centered on the State Budget, Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth and Regionalism

Discussion and Action Items

1. Authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a new Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between Northeastern Connecticut Transit District and the Municipal Employees Union Independent Local 506, SEIU, AFL-CIO for the period July 1, 2017- June 30, 2020. **Mr. Griffiths moved to accept and Mr. Alberts seconded - passed unanimously**
2. Policy Updates - The following NECCOG and NECTD Policies require annual updates or reaffirmation by the organizations. Unless there is objection, it is suggested that these be block voted.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NECCOG Affirmative Action Plan • NECCOG Public Participation Policy • NECCOG Procurement Policy • NECCOG Title VI and LEP Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NECCOG Fiscal Policies and Procedures • NECTD LEP Policy • NECTD Title VI Policy • NECTD ADA Policy • NECTD Affirmative Action Policy • NECTD Preventative Maintenance Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NECTD Procurement Policy • NECTD Service and Fare Equity Analysis Policy • NECTD Public Participation Policy • NECTD Reasonable Modification Policy
--	--	--

Mr. Ives asked for these items to be block voted and **Mr. Alberts moved to accept and Mr. Beausoleil seconded - passed unanimously.**

3. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** - The Director explained that the CEDS document is updated every five years and it is something we've had since 2001. He noted that NECCOG is one of the few, if not the only, region to do this work fully in-house. Once the document is approved it then goes onto to OPM, DECD, the Governor then signs it and then moves on to the Economic Development Administration for federal approval. If approved the region would then become an Economic Development District and that would open us up to some possible Federal dollars. **Mr. Syme moved to accept and Mr. Alberts seconded - passed unanimously.**
4. **Regional Referrals** - Simple zone use language change in Brooklyn for a licensed cosmetologist out of home. **Mr. Seney moved and Mr. Syme seconded - no regional impact anticipated.**
5. **STIP Actions/Amendments** - none
6. **Regional Program Proposals** - No additional discussion
7. **Selectman's Roundtable** - Mr. Lippke brought up that his assessor was notified of needing to pay \$15k for a software update for the Vision Appraisal program and asked if that was something that could be purchased regionally. Mr. Filchak said he would look into it. Mr. Syme motioned to have public participation and Mr. Beausoleil seconded and invited Rep. Dubitsky, Rep. Dauphinais, and Ms. Hamzy from CCM to speak on what is happening at the state. Mr. Larry then spoke regarding deputy registrars.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:28am